The Ascetic and the Ecstatic: The Limits of Pleasure

Graduate Students in Philosophy Conference
Saturday, 23 February 2019
505 Rockwell Hall
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh PA

Sponsored by:
Duquesne University Department of Philosophy
McAnulty College of Liberal Arts
Duquesne Program Council

9:00–9:30 a.m.
Arrival and Continental Breakfast

9:30–11:15 a.m.
Panel 1 — The Human Person in Relation to the Divine:
Ascetic and Ecstatic Conceptions of the Self

Moderator: Michael Kramer (Duquesne University)

Gwen Daugs (Fordham University):
“Christian Ascetic and Mystic Conceptions of the Self:
Distillation and Dissolution”

Mohammad Asgary (University of Toronto):
“The End of Asceticism: Asceticism in the Shi’i
Philosophical and Spiritual Tradition”

Joseph Antoniello (Franciscan University of Steubenville):
“Fasting as Real Apprehension of God in John Henry Newman”

11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.
Panel 2 — The Infinite at Its Limit:
Ascetic and Ecstatic Pleasures

Moderator: Thomas Szwedska (Duquesne University)

Sophie Cote (New York University):
“Epicurus between Hedonism and Asceticism”

Kefu Zhu (State University of New York at Binghamton):
“Kant on the Mathematically Sublime and the Aesthetic Infinite”

Matthew Zavislan (New School for Social Research):
“Emmanuel Levinas and the Pleasures of Excessive Responsibility”

1:30–2:30 p.m.
Lunch

2:45–4:30 p.m.
Panel 3 — Ascent to the Divine:
Ascetic and Ecstatic Practices

Moderator: Molly Wallace (Duquesne University)

Mark Spinnenweber (Franciscan University of Steubenville):
“The Ecstatic Wilting of the Little Flower: The Death Narrative of Thérèse of Lisieux Read through the Deadly Vice Tradition”

Jessica Deal (Catholic University of America):
“The Inner Man: Divine Ecstasy as Cause of Rightly-Ordered Loves in Augustine’s Confessions”

Kristian Sheeley (University of Kentucky):
“The Necessity of Moral Virtue for Spiritual Illumination in the Cappadocian Fathers”

4:45–6:15 p.m.
Keynote Address

Karmen MacKendrick (Le Moyne College):
“Saints, Stigmata, and Strippers: A Look at Some Naked Franciscans”

7:00–11:00 p.m.
Dinner at Olive or Twist
140 6th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222